MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

15 DECEMBER 1982

Lebanon

Draper, Habib Efforts -- U.S. Deputy Assistant Under Secretary of State Morris Draper arrived in Beirut on 14 December, Beirut radio reported. "Informed sources" expressed satisfaction with the continuing U.S. efforts and affirmed that it has become possible to reach practical results if Israel acts in a well-intentioned manner, the radio added. Noting that U.S. envoy Philip Habib is expected to arrive in Israel on 15 December, another Beirut report expressed the hope that the two envoys' work will lead to limited withdrawals.

Habib may succeed in securing the 15-km withdrawal of Israeli, Syrian and Palestinian forces as an initial phase, unidentified press reports cited by Beirut radio indicated. However, the Tel Aviv daily HA'ARETZ cited "senior political sources" in Jerusalem as saying that there are no early signs that the United States intends to effect a "disengagement of forces" in Lebanon. THE JERUSALEM POST stated that even if Israel and Lebanon reach an agreement on security in southern Lebanon, an IDF withdrawal could be "remote" because Syria shows no signs of wanting to leave.

Tripoli Situation -- Former Prime Minister Rashid Karami chaired a meeting in Tripoli convened to discuss methods of dealing with the situation in the area, Beirut radio reported. Members of the delegation that visited Damascus on 13 December attended the meeting and reported that a "Syrian envoy" will soon arrive in Tripoli to meet with local leaders and study the situation, the radio added.

Armed clashes resumed in Tripoli on 14 December between Lebanese groups and the Arab Deterrent Forces, Baghdad Voice of the PLO radio reported. Beirut radio reports noted that the situation in Tripoli was tense, and that intermittent, sometimes violent, clashes occurred in some areas.

'Alayh Situation -- Although a Beirut radio report that the curfew in 'Alayh was lifted, shops were opened and the international highway was opened in both directions, The clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported that "substantial caution" prevailed in the area following the injury of two Christians, an incident "which forced the Lebanese Forces to respond by firing." The Socialist Party center in Hayy al-Balakin was fired on and some of the building's occupants were injured, the radio added.

Israel

Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon asserted that although Israel has no intention of annexing "Judaea and Samaria," it will continue to establish settlements there, Jerusalem radio reported. He called Israeli security and settlements in Judaea, and Samaria "basic rights" and added that the current government will continue to implement its settlement policy. Sharon insisted that the settlements will prevent any possibility of establishing a "second Palestinian state -- second to one that exists already in Jordan," another Jerusalem radio report stated.

Egypt

President Husni Mubarak met with FRG President Karl Carstens and Chancellor Helmut Kohl on 14 December in Bonn to discuss both bilateral and international relations, particularly Middle East issues, MENA and DPA reported. In a speech delivered at a luncheon hosted by Carstens, the text of which was transmitted by MENA, Mubarak stated that Egypt welcomes an active European role in the Middle East and is pleased that the FRG has called for immediate Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon.

PLO

Amman Meetings -- A press statement issued by the higher Jordanian-Palestinian committee following meetings held 13-14 December in Amman declared that the committee members agreed to continue moving together politically on all levels based on a commitment to the Fes summit resolutions and to marshall all resources in order to regain Arab and Palestinian rights, Amman radio reported. PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat termed the committee's discussion "constructive and fruitful," another Amman radio report stated. Radio Monte Carlo noted that the "new strategy" devised by the committee is aimed at bringing international initiatives and the Arab peace plan closer together.

'Arafat Interview -- PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat told the Kuwait daily AS-SIYASAH that the PLO rejects "all U.S. and Zionist plans and initiatives headed by the autonomous rule and the Camp David accord," KUNA reported. The PLO leader denounced these plans as attempts to shatter Palestinian unity. 'Arafat also noted that the recent meetings in Aden were some of the most important Palestinian meetings and will have "tangible, positive" results.

Diplomatic Recognition -- Bolivia has granted the PLO office in La Paz full diplomatic status, Baghdad Voice of PLO radio reported.

Inter-Arab Affairs

PLO-Ba'th Meeting -- 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, met with Palestine National Council Speaker Khalid al-Fahum in Damascus on 14 December to discuss the latest Middle East developments, Damascus radio revealed. The two sides stressed the importance of Syrian-Palestinian relations and emphasized the need to continue the joint struggle to establish Palestinian rights, the radio added.

Saudi-Syrian Talks -- Saudi Arabia's King Fahd will soon visit Syria in an attempt to settle differences between Syria and Iraq, KUNA reported citing the Kuwait daily AL-ANBA'. Political sources told AL-ANBA' that the talks would include discussion of Syrian-Palestinian relations, the seven-member Arab League delegation's recent visits as well as possible Syrian assistance in effecting the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon. Informed Saudi sources expect the "anticipated and important visit" to take place as soon as the Saudi monarch returns from his current private visit to Spain, the same KUNA report stated.

Gulf Affairs

GCC Justice Meeting -- During a 2-day meeting in Riyadh, GCC justice ministers agreed on the framework and general principles for basing their countries' judicial systems and legislation on Islamic law, KUNA reported. Experts from the six member countries' Justice Ministries will meet to put the agreement into practice, KUNA added. Noting that some Gulf countries have implemented "cosmetic measures" such as banning Christmas and New Year parties in order to conform with Islamic laws and traditions, IRNA asserted that these decisions were made because the Muslims in the Gulf have been strongly influenced by the Islamic revolution in Iran.

YAR Earthquake -- YAR Prime Minister 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani announced that 142 towns and villages were damaged and over 2,000 people are known to have been killed or injured in the 13 December earthquake that struck Dhamar Province, Aden and San'a' radios reported. The seismic center in Djibouti registered four earth tremors from 1215 to 1730 on 13 December; the initial tremor registered 6 and the three subsequent tremors each registered 5.4 on the Richter scale, San'a' radio reported.

PDRY Student Protest -- A statement issued at a youth rally held in Aden to protest U.S. military exercises in Oman and Somalia condemned the exercises and asserted that the Gulf has become a primary target of U.S. imperialism, Aden radio reported. One youth leader accused the United States of mounting the exercises in respnse to the recent successful meetings PDRY and PLO leaders held in Aden, the radio added.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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'COUNTERREVOLUTIONARIES' CAPTURED IN KAPISA

LD141638 Kabul in Dari to Europe 1530 GMT 14 Dec 82

[Text] Kapisa Province security forces yesterday crushed a group of counterrevolutionary elements who were disrupting the peace and security of the people of (Ghazi Deh) village in the center of that province, along with their ringleader. The security forces also captured 13 of them with their weapons and handgrenades.

MUJAHIDIN ATTACK 3 MILITARY POSTS 23 NOV

LD102008 Riyadh SPA in English 1351 GMT 10 Dec 82

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 10 (SPA) -- Twentyone Afghan soldiers were killed when the mujahidin wiped out three communist government military posts in central Afghanistan on November 23, the London-based Agency Afghan Press (AAP) reported here today.

The agency said the mujahidin launched simultaneous attacks on three military posts along Kabul-Qandahar highway located at Kabani, Gandakhel and Achujan. [placenames as received] It added that the mujahidin made effective use of their rocket launchers and destroyed two tanks by land mines.

The agency said the crew of a military truck was killed on November 17 when the mujahidin attacked a large military convoy coming from the Soviet Union at Herat-Towraghondi road in southwestern Afghanistan. It added five lit-tankers [as received] and two tanks were also destroyed during the mujahidin's attack.

The agency said a "grave situation" had developed in and around the historical Ghazni City in central Afghanistan and that the Soviets were intermittently bombing mujahidin hideouts in the area using MiG's and helicopter gunships. It added that despite bombing the Soviets had till early December failed to dislodge the mujahidin and stop their operations on the outer fringe of Ghazni.

BRIEFS

AGREEMENT WITH GDR -- Kabul, Nov. 30, BAKHTAR -- The DRA-GDR joint commission on economic and technical cooperation held in Berlin signed an agreement of the exchange of goods in barter basis amounting to about [figure indistinct] million dollars between the two countries. The German Democratic Republic will assist the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan in a number of projects such as the network of Kabul electricity and equipping Radio Afghanistan studios. Protocols of cooperation in these areas also have been signed between the two sides, said the deputy commerce minister of the DRA who headed the Afghan delegation at the DRA-GDR joint commission in Berlin. The DRA delegation returned home today. [Text] [Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0417 GMT 1 Dec 82 LD]

BARODA DEATH TOLL RISES TO NINE; ARMY MOVES IN

BK150310 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 15 Dec 82

[Text] No untoward incidents have been reported from Baroda since last night. The army has moved in to assist the local police. Gujarat Home Minister Prabhodh Raval told the All India Radio Ahmedabad correspondent a short while ago that the central reserve police also moved into Baroda this morning. Meanwhile the number of persons killed in the last 3 days' disturbances has risen to nine; of them, four died in police firing. Indefinite curfew still prevails in the disturbed parts of Baroda.

AMBASSADOR TO REPRESENT INDIA AT BEIJING FUNCTION

BK141537 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 14 Dec 82

[Text] India will be represented at Kotnis memorial function in Beijing tomorrow by Indian Ambassador A.P. Venkateswaran. This was officially announced in New Delhi today.

PROTOCOL ON ENERGY COOPERATION SIGNED WITH USSR

BK141605 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1440 GMT 14 Dec 82

[Text] India and the Soviet Union on December 14 agreed to further develop their mutual cooperation in the field of power following intensive discussions between the delegations of the two countries at the second meeting which concluded its deliberations in New Delhi.

A protocol was signed between the two countries and [word indistinct] programme of cooperation in area of power was delineated for next 3 years under the overall cooperation programme covering 1981-1985.

Protocol was signed on behalf of Soviet side by N.A. Lopatin, deputy minister for power and electrification, and T.R. Satish Chandran, secretary Department of Power on behalf of India.

The two sides reviewed their cooperation in construction of Vindhyachal thermal power station and 400 kv transmission lines associated with the project. The first unit of 6 210 mw units of Vindhyachal thermal power station is scheduled to be commissioned by June 1987. Subsequent units will be coming at an interval of 6 months each.

Work is also expected to commence on the 400 kv transmission line stretched over a distance of approximately 900 km. The transmission line would be ready for operation in time for power evacuation from Vindhyachal thermal power station.

The two sides have also identified further areas of cooperation in hydro power and power systems and possibilities of cooperation in new areas have been considered.

During discussions stress was laid on timely import of spares from the USSR for 50 mw and 100 mw units already installed in India with Soviet assistance.

Both India and the Soviet Union also expressed their interest in the design, construction and commissioning of power projects in third countries.

The working programme for power, which is being coordinated under an agreement on economic and technical cooperation between two countries, was directed at increasing output of electrical energy in India and efficiency and reliability of power station.

Programme includes construction of power projects in the country, creation of a unified power system in India, the organisation of a centralised service for repair of power equipment of Soviet design and possible joint construction of power stations in third countries.

The working programme also provides for the development of a programme to improve the professional skills of various categories of specialists at projects in which the Soviet Union was cooperating and also the training of Indian specialists at power plants in the USSR.

TRADE PROTOCOL FOR 1983 SIGNED WITH VIETNAM

BK111608 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 11 Dec 82

[Text] India and Vietnam have signed a trade protocol for exchange of goods worth about $6 million. Under it, India will export to Vietnam caustic soda, cotton yarn, insecticide, spares for textile machinery, antibiotics and chemicals for industrial purpose. Vietnam will try to export to India cement, rubber and cashew nuts. Specific contracts for this purpose have been concluded between the revelant trading organizations or firms of the two countries. These will be on the basis of mutually acceptable prices and quality. The protocol will be valid up to 31 December next year.

RAO COMMENTS ON MIDDLE EAST, AFGHANISTAN

PM141037 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 8 Dec 82 pp 1, 10, 12

[Report on interview with External Affairs Minister Narasimha Rao by Maha 'Abd al-Fattah in New Delhi -- date not given]

[Excerpts] Indian External Affairs Minister Narasimha Rao has asserted: We will work for all parties to be present at the negotiating table, and that includes the PLO.

He denied that India intends to introduce a new initiative. However, he expressed the hope that the forthcoming nonaligned state's conference would find a formula or a way that would lead to the participation of all sides, including the PLO, in the negotiations.

The Indian external affairs minister confirmed strong and continuous relations with Yasir 'Arafat. He said Chairman 'Arafat wants a peaceful and just settlement.

Rao emphasized that his country did not condone violence -- not even as a countermeasure to violence. He said India supports a peaceful settlement provided it is based on self-determination, a Palestinian state, and the peaceful coexistence of all sides.

Referring to Israel's attitude, he said Israel has devised special laws for itself to the exclusion of international law. He added that Israel has been able to do that for two reasons: the power at its disposal and the support of a superpower. (He means the United States.)

On the Iraqi-Iranian war, he said reports reaching him did not indicate an early end to the war, which has developed into a war of attrition between the two sides. He said this is one of the main topics before the nonaligned conference and a solution from outside the movement was difficult.

On Afghanistan, he said India believes foreign interference in Afghanistan should be halted before the Soviet Union is asked to withdraw its forces. In other words, "a constructive dialogue" between Pakistan and the Afghan Government would end what he described as "foreign interference," and then the Soviet Union could be asked to withdraw its forces from Afghanistan. He said he hopes the current UN efforts will bear fruit until the nonaligned conference is held.

The interview broached other subjects such as the [Nonaligned] Movement's philosophy and development. This led to a discussion on the means of defending Gulf security and India's views regarding new political methods and changes, such as the Rapid Deployment Force. He clearly stated that defense is the responsibility of the states concerned and that the security of the Gulf is the responsibility of the Gulf states. He then suddenly asked: Defending the Gulf against whom? He emphasized that these matters should be kept as far away from superpower interference as possible.

RAHIM VIEWS NONALIGNED MOVEMENT, FOREIGN TIES

BK130905 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 0834 GMT 13 Dec 82

[Text] Minister of State for External Affairs A.A. Rahim has said that in spite of "some ideological differences" among nonaligned countries the movement retains its "vitality, importance and relevance". In an interview with WEEKEND REVIEW published in New Delhi on December 12 Rahim said although there was "an unfortunate" conflict between the two nonaligned countries namely Iran and Iraq, it was significant that both had agreed to the mediatory role of the nonaligned nations committee of four of which India was a member.

Asked about the visit to India of Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and the Franco-Egyptian proposals on West Asia, Rahim said the proposals, like others on West Asia, had "elements" which could lead to a durable solution of the crisis. Egypt was "increasingly realising" the importance of returning to the Arab fold and was interested in "reasserting" its traditional role within the Nonaligned Movement, he said.

On Indo-Soviet relations, Rahim said the change of leadership in the Soviet Union would not affect relations between the two countries which were "time tested and based on mutual benefit."

Following Mrs Gandhi's visit to the United States there had been an improvement in the "atmosphere of Indo-U.S. relations," he also noted.

The minister said the establishment of a joint commission following the official level talks between India and Pakistan would give "an impetus" to consideration of Pakistan's no-war pact and India's treaty of friendship proposals. He said India was "prepared in principle" to discuss the Kashmir issue with Pakistan in terms of the Simla Agreement.

CPI SAYS U.S. CENTRAL COMMAND THREATENS PEACE

BK101724 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 10 Dec 82

[Text] The Communist Party of India has deplored the U.S. move to form a new central command covering the Indian Ocean area. In a statement in New Delhi, the party's Central Secretariat said this will increase a threat to peace in the region.

AFP Account

BK101726 Hong Kong AFP in English 1648 GMT 10 Dec 82

[Text] New Delhi, Dec. 10 (AFP) -- The pro-Moscow Communist Party of India (CPI) today attacked the U.S. decision to launch a new central command for its Rapid Deployment Force saying it was a threat to peace, independence and security in the Mideast, Gulf and Indian Ocean.

"It is a most blatant declaration of U.S. imperialist intentions to intensify its aggressive activities against the countries of this region, including our own, the CPI Central Secretariat said in a statement here. It added the move was "in the name of safeguarding the so-called U.S. interests in this region and under the pretext of meeting the fictitious Soviet threat."

The U.S. decision had to be seen, the statement continued, in the context of the growing militarisation of the military dictatorship in Pakistan and the continuing American-backed Israeli aggression against Lebanon, the PLO and other Arab countries.

It urged Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's government to strongly denounce this move and mobilise opposition to it among countries in the region.

PRIME MINISTER CAUTIONS AGAINST REGIONALISM

BK131720 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 13 Dec 82

[Excerpts] The Congress, led by A.K. Anthony, in Kerala today formally merged with the Congress-I at a function in Cochin this evening. Blessing the unity of both the Congresses, Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi said this should bring greater stability, progress and prosperity to Kerala. She said that Congress stands firmly for the unity of the country. If we do not maintain the unity, we will not be able to defend our freedom. We stand for democracy and secularism, she added.

The prime minister said that some people are encouraging regionalism in the country for political reasons by misleading people. She cautioned that any type of regionalism is as big a danger as threat from outside.

Referring to the reported statements made by some Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M) leaders that she is exploiting threats to the country, Mrs Gandhi said she had always expressed her anxiety and concern over this. Though India always stands for peace, in the present situation we cannot slacken our efforts to meet any eventuality. Our expenditure on defense is the lowest in the world.

With today's merger, the Congress-I has become the largest single party in the 140-member Kerala Assembly with 34 members.

GOVERNMENT BANS STRIKES IN FOOD CORPORATION

BK111605 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 11 Dec 82

[Text] The government has prohibited strikes in the food corporation of India. A presidential notification issued in New Delhi today in this regard comes into effect immediately.

MRS BHUTTO CRITICIZES ZIA IN PARIS INTERVIEW

PM141121 Paris LE FIGARO in French 11-12 Dec 82 p 3

[Interview with Pakistan People's Party Chairman Nusrat Bhutto by Claude Lorieux in Paris -- date not given]

[Excerpt] Mrs Bhutto thinks Ziaul Haq and his aides have been violating the 1973 Constitution since they came to power: "They have, therefore, committed treason. When the time comes, they will be judged according to the law and Constitution and not, of course, according to my personal opinions."

In her view, it would be wrong to regard Ziaul Haq's long stay in the United States and Canada (9 days) as a sign of the regime's stability. "That is an illusion. He is living from day to day trying to deceive everybody. He is not concerned with the country's future." She listed the measures taken against the trade unions, university teachers, and lawyers. "There is also malaise within the army. People resent Ziaul Haq for having diverted Pakistan from its normal functions," Mrs Bhutto explained, recalling that in Pakistan "nobody has ever seen a colonel or a captain carry out a coup d'etat. It is always the chief of staff...." However, Ziaul Haq apparently has the confidence of the hierarchy.

The real threat to the country's stability lies elsewhere. "If elections are not held soon (Ziaul Haq plans to hold them in 2 or 3 years' time -- LE FIGARO editor's note) Pakistan will explode," the Pakistan People's Party [PPP] chairman stated, stressing the tensions in Sind Province ("they want their own state, like Bangladesh"), in the Northwest Frontier Province ("many problems with the Afghan refugees, murders .."), and in Baluchistan. "The Baluchis are demanding their provincial rights: It will not be possible to appease them by constructing roads for army vehicles to use!"

Separatism, she revealed, is a "political problem, and Ziaul Haq is not a politician. His method is to beat people. My party will be able to tackle it. It is necessary to follow the Constitution that gave autonomy to the Baluchis."

Negotiating with Kabul

Mrs Bhutto also disagrees with President Ziaul Haq on the Afghan crisis. She accuses him of "using the refugees and rebels to strengthen his own position and to obtain aid from the West (F-16 aircraft money, wheat), just as he is using Islam to control Pakistan's people." To settle the Afghan problem it will be necessary to have "an elected government, which alone will be able to talk to the Soviets and the Afghan authorities."

However, in keeping with the line laid down by the Islamic conference, Ziaul Haq has always refused to negotiate with [Afghan President] Babrak Karmal, which would amount to recognizing his legitimacy. "But," Mrs Bhutto protested, nobody hesitates to talk to Ziaul Haq, who has not been elected; he is scum [in English] so what is the difference?" But isn't that a betrayal of the 3 million refugees installed in Pakistan? "No," Mrs Bhutto replied. "We say, as Ziaul Haq does, that the refugees should be repatriated in honorable circumstances."

This is a difficult debate and one in which the PPP, if it returns to power, will not be able to ignore the reactions of the rebel troops installed on its territory, as the PLO formerly was in Jordan!

'Ali Bhutto's widow was harsh on the subject of the attitude adopted by Reagan who, after Deng Xiaoping and Andropov, is elevating the international stature acquired by Ziaul Haq by receiving him. "The Americans, who believe in democracy in their country, ought to have the same criteria for other countries. They ought not to support a man who is ruling by tank, gun, and stick."

BENAZIR BHUTTO'S DETENTION ORDER EXTENDED

BK111245 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 11 Dec 82

[Text] The martial law authorities of Pakistan have extended by 90 days the detention of Miss Benazir Bhutto, the daughter of executed Prime Minister Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto. Miss Bhutto has been under arrest since March last year.

REPORT ON LAWYERS' HUNGER STRIKE DENIED

BK121541 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 12 Dec 82

[Text] The Sind Interior Ministry has refuted the report published in a section of the press that some lawyers have begun a 48-hour hunger strike. A ministry spokesman, after inquiring of the jail authorities, said in Karachi that no lawyer in any jail had gone on hunger strike.

VENEZUELAN OIL MINISTER ARRIVES 14 DECEMBER

LD141200 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Dec 82

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that Calderon Berti, Venezuelan minister of energy and mines, arrived in Tehran today for preliminary talks in connection with the OPEC session. He was welcomed by Oil Minister Gharazi and an Iranian oil delegation. Berti, who heads the Venezuelan delegation at the OPEC session, has already held similar talks with several OPEC oil ministers including those of Kuwait and Algeria.

While in Tehran, he will hold talks with Oil Minister Gharazi and other members of the Iranian delegation to the OPEC session with regard to the forthcoming OPEC meeting. The OPEC oil ministers' conference will convene in Vienna next Saturday and will discuss the issues of production levels, oil prices, the question of oil quality pricing applicable to some member countries and the election of a new secretary general.

Calderon Berti Comments

GF141641 Tehran IRNA in English 1605 GMT 14 Dec 82

[Text] Tehran, Dec 14, IRNA -- Venezuelan minister of energy and mines, Humberto Calderon Berti said here today that it is to the best interest of OPEC members that oil prices be stabilised by a common pricing system.

Calderon Berti who is here for talks with Iranian officials in anticipation of the OPEC conference in Vienna next week, said that OPEC would be wise to stand by the present 34 dollar per barrel price and that in his view a hike in oil prices would not be reasonable under the present circumstances. Berti noted that in his opinion OPEC members would be better advised not to increase their oil production in order that a slump in price of oil may be prevented. He observed that in his judgement oil prices should be stabilised for at least the next two years.

In an official announcement published here three days ago the Islamic Republic voiced its support for retaining the present prime rate of 34 dollars per barrel.

Prior to his arrival here, the Venezuelan minister had met and talked with officials in Algeria, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

Gharazi Remarks

LD141832 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Dec 82

[Text] Petroleum Minister Gharazi, with regard to the Venezuelan minister of energy and mines, said: The proposals Iran made 1 year ago for controlling oil production by OPEC gradually are being considered by OPEC members and some changes have occurred in the views of those who opposed this view at the beginning. He added: The Venezuelan oil minister believes that in order to support producers and consumers and to regulate the situation in OPEC markets, he should place the question of production at the top of his policies.

Gharazi also said: The base price of $34 for every barrel of oil should not be threatened. We hope the question of controlling the amount of oil produced will be given top priority in the questions facing OPEC because, in this way, OPEC's views on prices also will be satisfied.

The Venezuelan minister of energy and mines left Tehran for Kuwait this afternoon.

'COSMETIC' ISLAMIC LAWS IN GCC COUNTRIES SCORED

GF141658 Tehran IRNA in English 1640 GMT 14 Dec 82

[Text] Tehran, Dec 14, IRNA -- On the prompting of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (PGCC), a number of its member countries have undertaken cosmetic measures to implement Islamic laws and traditions in their communities.

Kuwait announced Monday that it will join the UAE and Dubayy in banning all Christmas and New-Year parties in order to conform with Islamic traditions.

However, it was not clear whether the ban would also be carried out in these countries' palaces where heads of state hold their lavish private parties as well.

Authorities have also not mentioned the fact that such laws prohibiting parties did not suddenly come into existence nor did they state what prompted them to implement them this coming Christmas.

The regional rulers have apparently made this decision citing reports from the PGCC's intelligence source that the Muslim people of their countries have been strongly influenced by the Islamic revolution of Iran and therefore steps had to be taken in order to stir optimism concerning the rulers faith in Islam and its divine teachings.

But on the other hand these tactical policies are becoming apparent at a time when these rulers have not been able to convince the people about their recognition of the Zionist regime in the anti-Islamic Fes resolution, and they have not stated an acceptable reason for their humiliating reaction towards the Zionist intolerable aggression against the Palestinian and Lebanese Muslims.

What could be further stated in this connection is that this sudden announcement can only be viewed as a reaction to the people's awareness of their Islamic identity caused by the Islamic revolution of Iran. Moreover the recent developments in the region are reminiscent of the last few months of monarchical rule in Iran when the shah appointed Sharifimami as prime minister and forced him to announce a ban on gambling and casinos in order to pacify the people's demand for an Islamic revolution.

If implementation of Islamic laws were approved by the regional rulers then we would have witnessed a campaign against all symbols of Western and other un-Islamic manifestations in order to create the grounds for the establishment of a true Islamic society. In addition, the rulers should also lead honourable lives according to the teachings of Islam instead of corrupting themselves and wasting the peoples God-given resources and wealth on imperial palaces and ultra-expensive Western resorts.

In another development, it is also interesting to note that the Malaysian Government also announced similar measures Monday. It proposed a law banning public kissing, bench cuddling, and indecent clothing. The law would go into effect next year if approved.

IRAQI OIL INSTALLATIONS DAMAGED 13 DECEMBER

LD142230 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Dec 82

[Text] Iraq's petrochemical installations in the vicinity of Al-Basra yesterday became the target of Islam's artillery and suffered extensive damage.

According to an IRNA report, during the past 24 hours, Islam's combatants in the Moharram and Ramadan operational zones defended their positions and returned enemy fire. They prevented the enemy from carrying out combat engineering activities. Islam's forces destroyed 3 enemy loaders, 3 other vehicles, 1 antiaircraft gun, 3 ammunition dumps, 11 trenches and 1 observation post of the Saddamists and killed a number of the Iraqi Zionist soldiers.

According to another report, the martyr city of Abadan came under fire today from the long-range guns of Saddam's Zionist mercenaries. Damage was sustained as a result of fires breaking out in several parts of the city.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE NO 1,152

LD141730 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Dec 82

[Communique No 1,152 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. During the past 24 hours, the combative forces of Islam in the Muslim ibn 'Aqil operational sector opened heavy artillery fire on enemy positions, destroying four enemy vehicles, a 106-mm gun and an excavation vehicle. At least 20 of Saddam's troops were either killed or wounded.

On one front of this region, our combatants hit two vehicles carrying enemy troops and destroyed several Saddamist bunkers and weapons emplacements. During these operations, more than 10 Saddamists were killed.

Exchange of fire continued on the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab and Naftshahr fronts. Thanks to the fire of our units, one command vehicle and four trenches belonging to the mercenaries were destroyed; one of their tanks and an armored personnel carrier were set ablaze.

In the Paveh and Marivan sectors, our forces defended their own positions and opened fire on positions of the Saddamist troops. Thanks to artillery fire by the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran on Iraqi positions in the Tutman region of Iraq, several enemy trenches and foxholes were destroyed and their artillery fire was silenced.

Exchange of fire continued in the Moharram operational sector and was more intense in the Sharhani region. Our warriors opened artillery fire on enemy positions and fortifications in this sector and defended the regions under their own protection.

Our forces in the Abadan and Khorramshahr regions opened fire on enemy positions on the other side of the Arvand Rud. As a result, eight Iraqi trenches and foxholes, one ammunition depot and three observation posts were destroyed and a number of their personnel were either killed or wounded.

Thanks to the fire of our ground-to-air defense units and the tactics of the fighter aircraft of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, all enemy air raids were repulsed yesterday.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

TEHRAN PROVINCE ELECTIONS RESULTS UPDATED

LD141828 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Dec 82

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, the Interior Ministry's election headquarters has announced the latest results of votes counted for elections to the Council of Experts in Tehran Province as of 1800 today:

The number of votes cast from 934 constituencies: 1,160,621.

Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i:	1,015,545
Hashemi-Rafsanjani:	970,751
Musavi-Ardabili:	894,137
'Ali Meshkini:	878,128
Emami-Kashani:	864,266
Mohammadi-Gilani:	799,625
Sane'i:	757,707
Baqeri-Kani:	741,113
Asadi-Khunsari:	715,721
Rezvani:	707,769
Azari-Qomi:	698,658
Rasti:	627,689
Khosrushahi:	627,425
Iravani:	587,284
Khalkhali:	389,637
Reyshahri:	339,335
Haqqi:	115,123

According to the same report, an informed official at the Interior Ministry's election headquarters announced that the final result of the elections to the Council of Experts in Tehran Province would be announced by the end of this week.

The counting of votes for the midterm elections to the Islamic Consultative Assembly in Tehran will begin tomorrow.

PRISONERS RELEASED IN KERMAN FOLLOWING AMNESTY

LD141642 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Dec 82

[Excerpt] According to the Central News Unit, on the occasion of the anniversary of the death of the Prophet Muhammad and the martyrdom of Imam Hasan, 192 people convicted by the Kerman Islamic revolution court and covered by Imam Khomeyni's amnesty were released from prison during a ceremony held at the Kerman Police Department. They returned to the arms of their families. The released prisoners had been convicted of possessing narcotics.

IRNA REPORTS ON AFGHAN MUJAHIDIN ACTIVITIES

LD121110 Tehran IRNA in English 0910 GMT 12 Dec 82

[Text] Zahedan, Dec 12, IRNA -- 12 joint Soviet-Afghan forces killed, 21 others injured and two tanks destroyed during a clash between Afghan Muslim mojahedin and the joint forces in Tulak Governorate, central Afghanistan.

According to reports reaching this Sistan va Baluchestan capital, in another confrontation in Sang-e-Sefid village in the same governorate, Afghan mojahedin killed eight joint forces while injuring two others and seizing seven Kalashnikov guns.

In another development, two Muslim mojahedin who had fled a joint forces military barracks in Moqor, Zabol Province, talked to IRNA on internal situation in Afghanistan, the unquestioned authority of Soviet military advisers there and the torture they had tolerated.

They said that they had been tortured through electric shocks and had been kept in a cold storage for 24 hours in order to confess. But, they added, with the help of Almighty God, they tolerated all the hardship thus the aggressive forces were convinced that they were not among the so-called "bandits". They were then sent to a military garrison under the pretext of receiving military training where they could manage to flee in spite of armed guards and mine fields protecting the area.

They also referred to the expansion of corruption inside garrisons and added that old men of 65 years had been forcefully summoned to barracks for military training while the lackey Afghan regime had declared that men up to 40 years old had been summoned for reserve forces.

Commenting on the statements of an Afghan military official to the effect that his country should either belong to those chanting Allah-o-akbar (God is great), Muslim mojahedin; or should be completely controlled by the government, the two mojahedin noted they would struggle until the last drop of their blood with Eastern and Western aggressors.

They emphasised that they would fight for the hoisting of Islamic banner in Afghanistan and by resorting to the slogan neither East or West, they would continue the revolutionary move of Muslim people in Afghanistan.

NVOI COMMENTARY ASSAILS PRESS ON AFGHANISTAN

TA142108 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1730 GMT 14 Dec 82

[Unattributed commentary: "A Fact That Is Not Difficult To Comprehend"]

[Text] Dear compatriots: The Afghan problem is among the problems that the imperialists' propaganda media have been focusing attention on for a long time. Their aim is to mislead public opinion with regard to the real nature of the Afghan revolution and to prevent its final stabilization and consolidation. Naturally, the question is why does U.S. imperialism persist to such an extent in its propaganda, plots and conspiracies against Afghanistan? To understand this, one should seek the main reasons in the roots of U.S. imperialism's policy regarding Afghanistan.

U.S. imperialism, which during the era of the domination of the annihilated shah's sinister regime had transformed Iran into its military base against the Soviet Union, tried to link Afghanistan as well to its anti-Soviet chain. Mohammad Reza, the subservient lackey of the U.S. imperialists, tried to dissuade Afghanistan from the neutral policy it had adopted and to lead it into the trap of imperialist plots. As a result of the critical conditions that developed in Afghanistan at that time, Afghanistan's progressive forces succeeded in overthrowing the monarchical regime in that country and Mohammad Davoud, by exploiting his previous liberal record, came to power. But later, it became obvious that he was fulfilling the role that the Americans had assigned him. Mohammad Davoud concluded secret agreements with the shah of Iran and the shah promised he would put about $2 billion at Mohammad Davoud's disposal. In return, he assumed the task of suppressing the Afghan freedom-seekers. However, the democratic forces of that country, under the leadership of their Khalq Party, preempted and overthrew Davoud's government. Since that time, the Afghan revolution and the government which came to power as a result of its victory have had their ups and downs. On the whole, however, his revolution dealt a heavy blow to U.S. imperialism and foiled its aggressive plans.

The root of America's conspiratorial policy must be sought in this important factor, which is that Afghanistan has come out of the sphere of domination and influence of imperialism led by America.

Now there is not the slightest doubt that despite the problems which the counter-revolution dependent on America has created, Afghanistan has created, Afghanistan has taken the correct path with a hopeful and bright future. It is precisely for this reason that the imperialists have become furious and alarmed at the consolidation and expansion of Afghanistan's revolutionary movement.

Ziaul Haq's Pakistan, which is dancing to the tune of the U.S. imperialists, is also frightened because the presence, consolidation and strengthening of a progressive revolutionary country whose every effort is being exerted toward the progress and development of the country, the welfare of the people and the liberation of the masses from the backwardness of the ages will shake the foundation of Ziaul Haq's dictatorship.

America cannot remain indifferent to this problem, the reason being that Pakistan has immense importance in world-devouring America's strategic plans for maintaining the domination of U.S. monopolies in this region. For this reason, Pakistan is howling against the Afghan revolution, is equipping the Afghan counterrevolution with U.S. arms and is trying by all means to destroy the Afghan people's revolutionary movement, or at least prevent its expansion and perpetuation.

Pakistan is not alone. Countries such as Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Turkey are participating in these imperialist plots against Afghanistan. Doesn't the fact that countries such as Saudi Arabia, Egypt and others, whose dependence on the U.S. imperialists is brighter than the sun, have risen against the revolution and revolutionary government of Afghanistan suffice to understand the true essence of this revolution? Isn't it sufficient for us to consider that all the world's progressive forces and countries such as the Soviet Union, Vietnam, Cuba and socialist countries, the countries of the Arab steadfastness front such as Algeria, Syria, Libya, the Palestinian movement, and the Polisario movement, which are in the anti-imperialist front, support and back the movement of the people of Afghanistan and its government? These same countries also have supported and sincerely endorsed the Iranian revolution.

What is taking place in Afghanistan by the counterrevolution is also occurring in Iran. Assassinations, killings, planting of bombs, Muslim pretensions, clamors about lack of freedom and about repression -- all these phenomena in Iran and Afghanistan pour out from the same mint and arsenal of U.S. imperialism. However, the firsthand plotters of America in Iran have achieved such success that they are able to pass off the forged coin of their mint about Afghanistan as a current coin in the view of some government figures, and to separate the two popular and anti-imperialist revolutions of the two peoples of Iran and Afghanistan, which in principle are in the same front.

The situation has reached such a stage that while disseminating various reports, which are all fabricated by the propaganda media of imperialism against Afghanistan, the JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI newspaper translated and published items full of lies and slander from such periodicals as [name indistinct] international about the massacre of the Muslims by the Russians in Afghanistan and Ethiopia. Such newspapers as JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI, by publishing such baseless items which are identical to the items that U.S. newspapers and magazines shamelessly publish at the same time about Iran and its so-called fascist government, wittingly or not fall into the trap of deception of imperialist mass media and pour grist into the enemy's mill. Indeed, how can bloodsucking imperialism which is nurtured from the blood of the people in Iran and other countries be a source of evil, corruption and the foe of Islam in our country, and in another country -- Afghanistan -- be a source of blessing and abundance and the defender of Muslims? This is a fact the comprehension of which is not difficult for wealthy minds although acknowledging this bitter fact is perhaps difficult for those who want to divert public opinion from the U.S. danger.